# DOWNS RUGBY ROUND-UP

Hello Downs Rugby supporters. Happy New Year to all and your loved ones and welcome to the start of another year of rugby in our beautiful part of the world.

Firstly let us offer our heartfelt condolences for all those affected by the floods. Most people in our region experienced some form of misfortune due to the widespread nature of the flooding. Our office has received many inquiries as to the wellbeing of towns like Chinchilla, Condamine, Dalby, St George, Warwick, Goondiwindi and Toowoomba. Clearly the adverse impact of the flood has touched people far and wide and it is uplifting that other communities are willing to pitch in and help.

Hopefully the above mentioned towns and surrounding areas are on the road to recovery and there is some semblance of normality creeping back in, evident by the many inquiries into the rugby season ahead.

We hope that you find the following information useful.

**SEASON 2011 KEY DATES**

## JUNIORS

- Junior Rugby sign on days are in the pipeline from mid-February onwards- in town clubs 12/13 February, Goondiwindi Jnrs 3 March – all other areas to be advised. An advertising campaign of WIN TV has been proposed;
- With the changes to the Junior Pathways, Come and Try days have been programmed to familiarise clubs with new rules – Dates will be confirmed in due course. Darling Downs Development Office from QRU is to attend and assist clubs.
- First Round for Juniors is to be 2nd April –We will have an opening carnival – Dalby have expressed an interest in hosting this.
- Season to finish in line with Seniors – we are trying to ensure minimum 15 rounds of rugby. This would include Opening Carnival, Grammar Carnival, Closing Carnival and 12 rounds of weekly rugby if calendar (and weather) permits.

## TEENAGE

- First term – Friday nights – Under 13/15/17 age groups. Sign on 11th February. Competition is to run for 6 wks commencing 25 February with finals to be 1 April (weather permitting). We will have a competition with grand final in each age group.
- Rep coaches are currently being appointed. It is anticipated that they will be viewing some of the Friday night games.
- Host venues and times to be determined once teams are nominated on 11 Feb. Looking for set times of 6pm, 7pm and 8pm - where sufficient fields available.

Can't be locked in until we know what teams we have.

- Second term – Sunday games. Playing with competition points/finals. Hope to have home/away structure – again determined by team nominations.
- Third term selection games and trial games for rep.

## SENIORS

- Proposed Competition Structure:-
  10 x A Grade teams with the elevation of Highfields. South Burnett will be combining with the Highfields Club and will be fielding a B Grade team. The contact at Highfields is Sean Andreas on 0415 261 092.

  10 x B Grade teams with the elevation of South Burnett. The contact at South Burnett is Shane O'Malley on 0438 151 135.

  6 x C Grade teams. This includes the addition of Chinchilla who will combine with the Dalby Club. The contact at Chinchilla is 0412 623 345.

  7 x Under 19 teams.

- With 10 A grade teams, we propose to continue with the 5 team finals series.

- Games to start 2 April 2011 – Grand Final to be held 3 September – all games and finals will be finished prior to the start of the World Cup.

- Play through the season with only one break weekend – Easter.

- The final version of the draw is planned to be released by the Presidents' Meeting on 19 February. A draft version is currently being circulated amongst those clubs that share their facilities to ensure no conflicts of dates.

## JUNIOR REDS

The 2011 Juniors Reds intake comprises 29 up and coming teenage footballers. The boys will get together for their first meeting at an induction session on 31 January. Marty Leggat in conjunction with Chris Lane of the ARU will coordinate and run the training sessions aided by Hamish Proctor and Grant Gleeson. From past experience this is an excellent programme for developing talent in our teenage ranks.

## DARLING DOWNS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

It is great news that Queensland Rugby has decided to permanently base one of their Development Officers in Toowoomba. This will be an invaluable resource for all levels of rugby to have access to for the promotion and development of our great game. The Development Officer will be co-located with Downs Rugby at Anzac Central. Mr Lachlan Parkinson, who many of you know, has been transferred back to Brisbane to work as one of the QRU's coaching development staff. We wish Lachlan every success in his new role as he has served us well and has been a great advocate for rugby on the Downs over the years, particularly in the younger age groups where Lachlan demonstrated a great rapport with our future stars.We will be able to announce Lachlan's replacement shortly.

## REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY – SENIORS AND UNDER 19

Seniors – 16 players met on 22 January for a gym session so planning is now underway. The next scheduled activity is an overnight training camp for the weekend of 29/30 January. Players are to contact the Coach, Mr Evan Willis, on 4617 7333.

A trial game is being arranged for 26 Feb at this stage with games against Sunshine Coast on 12 March (at home) and a game against Gold Coast on 19 March (away). A South Queensland will then be selected to play against both Central and Northern Queensland for ultimate selection in a Queensland Country team.

Under 19 – The first training session is scheduled for Friday, 28 January. Players are to contact the Coach, Hamish Proctor on 0448 949 552. The representative programme will be the same as the senior programme outlined above.

## TEENAGE REPRESENTATIVE COACHES

Downs Rugby is seeking nominations for Coaches, Assist. Coaches and Managers for their Teenage representative rugby union sides for the 2011 season – age groups nominated Under 13 – Under 17 yrs.

The successful applicants must be prepared to interact with all Rugby Union Clubs within the Darling Downs competition to foster the continual development of the sport within our region and will regularly report to the Downs Rugby HPR Committee.

Nominations close 6 February and should be addressed to - Downs Rugby HPR Committee, PO Box 1070, Toowoomba 4350 – or email: gm@downsrugby.com. Appointments are to be made by 25 February 2011.

## AGM AND PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Notices have been issued to all club Presidents confirming that the AGM of Downs Rugby is arranged for 11.00am, Saturday, 19 February. The AGM will be followed by a Presidents' Meeting.

## EDUCATION

The QRU Development officer will deliver education to all members. Lachlan Parkinson will assist the new DO with a handover. At this stage the following dates have been programmed:-

Smart Rugby – 21 February – Senior Clubs - compulsory for all coaches and assistants (those that go on field). If Smart Rugby has expired, coaching qualifications are invalid.

Coaching Kids – 7 March – All persons interested in being involved in pathways rugby. Includes Smart Rugby.

Smart Rugby – All clubs – 21 March 2011

Foundation Day – Coach and Referee Education – 3 April 2011.

To book for a course or find out more information please go to

**http://www.qru.com.au/GrassrootsRugby**

(Follow the links for Education and Training)

**HANDBOOK** -- We would like to produce a Handbook for our region – detailing competitions and all club contacts. If you know anyone who would like to advertise in the handbook, please contact the Rugby office.

**SUPER SUNDAY OF SPORT** – Unfortunately due to recent events, Department of Communities, Sport & Rec, have suspended this event until further notice.

*Downs Rugby - PO Box 1070, Toowoomba Q 4350*

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